

Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Department of Photography

Assessment of the Master's Thesis

Author of thesis: Quynh Nguyen

Title of thesis: Break Time Exchanges: Visual and Media Ethnography of Ethnic Identity Construction in the Vietnamese-Czech Community in the SAPA Market and Cultural Centre

Assessment of the primary advisor

Assessment of the opponent

Author of the assessment (first name, last name, workplace): Tomáš Dvořák, KF FAMU

Evaluation of the content and final form of the thesis (A/excellent – B/very good – C/good – D/good with objections – E/satisfactory – F/unsatisfactory – not recommended for defence)

Suitability of the selected objective and work approach.....	A
Relative completeness of the literature used for the selected topic.....	A
Ability to critically evaluate and use scholarly literature.....	A
Logicity of the thesis structure, connection of its chapters.....	A
Language and stylistic level of the thesis.....	A
Compliance with citation norms (should the text repeatedly contain adopted passages without citing the source, the work cannot be recommended for defence).....	A
Sufficient extent of image attachments, justifiability and suitability of attachments, graphic layout.....	B
Originality of the thesis, contribution to the development of the field of study.....	A
Overall evaluation of the thesis.....	A

Verbal evaluation of the thesis including questions that the candidate must address in his/her thesis defence:

Quynh Nguyen diploma thesis investigates identity construction in the Vietnamese-Czech community in the SAPA market and cultural centre through ethnographic and netnographic fieldwork with focus on both online and offline break time interactions. The text outlines the historical and social background of the diaspora, rigorously defines the research method, introduces the setting of her fieldwork and in the main part offers an analytical narrative of the activities, interactions and practices, which contribute to the preservation of cultural memory, rituals, traditions and skills.

The thesis is exceptional in many aspects. First, it develops a uniquely robust and multi-layered research design, combining various approaches from diaspora/immigration studies, ethnographic and netnographic studies and artistic

(practice-based) research. The method is not only intricate and fitting but also actually employed in all its modalities, from participant observation to interviews, data analysis and collection, including photographic work.

What I admire most, however, is the original focus on “rest time” or “break time” exchanges and interactions, which offers a novel and creative take on the community. Quynh Nguyen brilliantly interweaves the online and offline modes in her reading and demonstrates, in a compelling way, the essential significance of this seemingly marginal time. In case she wants to pursue her research further, I suggest focusing also on the temporalities of everyday life (see e.g. Sarah Sharma, *In the Meantime: Temporality and Cultural Politics*, Duke UP 2014).

The only thing I regret is that the thesis offers only a rather sparse visual documentation. But regret is not a critique and I understand (or hope) that the photographic work will be presented in a different format. All in all, Quynh Nguyen’s thesis is a remarkable achievement, which proposes original research insights while developing a cutting-edge research design that can be employed in a variety of other research scenarios. I not only recommend the thesis for defence (with an A as the final grade) but also recommend revising the thesis for publication.

Date:4/6/2021....

Signature:..........